

body. Lam. 4:7. Remember that the Nazarites here described were pledged to total abstinence.

Is it a sin for us to needlessly weaken our bodies in any way? I Cor. 6:19.

What are some of the physiological effects of alcohol on the body?

Are these effects less real because not instantaneous but brought about thru perhaps years of drinking?

Is there any food in alcohol?

A drinker may increase in weight or in fatty tissue but not in working muscle power.

God made carboic acid as well as alcohol, but neither of them for food.

2 Total abstinence causes greater strength of mind. Isa. 28:7.

Is it a sin to needlessly weaken the mind?

What is it to love the Lord our God with our mind?

What is the effect of drinking upon the mind?

3 Total abstinence is the only safe thing for the soul. I Cor. 6:10.

Judging from a drunkard's tastes and the company he finds in saloons do you suppose he would want to be in heaven?

If a person gives up doing right and simply follows his desires, in what way, if any, is he different from the animals?

4 Total abstinence is best for the pocket-book. Prov. 23:21. Does the drunkard come to poverty thru God's decree or his own sin?

Are we punished for our sins or by them?

Is drunkenness a sin because the Bible calls it a sin, or is it a sin because of its evil results?

II. Total abstinence is best because of its influence upon others.

1 It takes away occasion of stumbling. I Cor. 8:13. Many a poor fellow has gone to destruction thru trying to imitate some one who "can drink or let it alone" and who in judgment will pay the penalty for the selfishness which will not consider the danger of the weaker brother.

2 It takes away the curse from posterity. Num. 14:18.

One of the saddest things of the whole business is the curse given by the parent to the innocent child which grows up with the parent's weakness. Has any man a moral right to cripple his children in this way?

Ought any man have a legal right to do what he has no moral right to do?

Would it not be a just and wise thing for the state to deny the drunkards the right to marry?

III. Total abstinence is best because it is God's will. Eph. 5:18; I Thes. 5:22; Col. 2:21.

God's will is not arbitrary but is for our good. By yielding to it we better ourselves.

Ought we seek for further reason for total abstinence when we know God wills it?

#### FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

Can a person be a stumbling block to others without first stumbling himself?

Which would be best, a prohibition law or a habit of total abstinence among the people?

Would a prohibition law help the habit of total abstinence? (Any one from a prohibition state can easily answer this. The brewers hand-book shows that prohibition law reduces the amount of drinking more than three-fourths.)

If prohibition helps total abstinence ought we not be active in securing prohibition?

For what is alcohol really useful?

How may we encourage total abstinence?

C. F. YODER.

Be not proud of riches, but afraid of them, lest they be as silver bars to cross the way to heaven,

## Christian Life

### The Gentleness of Jesus

The gentleness of the Lord Jesus has been and now is and always will be the wonder and admiration of the world. Many years before God was manifest in the flesh, the Psalmist said, "Thy gentleness hath made me great," and the prophet, speaking of the tender mercies and gentleness of the coming one said, "A bruised reed will he not break and the smoking flax will he not quench." We do well to think much of the gentleness of Jesus for in it we shall find great comfort. It is said that a mother's love is the tenderest thing on earth but Christ's love is tenderer still. How gently did the blessed Lord touch the wounded soul and the bruised heart. Wherever he found a spark of love, of goodness, in the human heart, that he would fan into a bright blaze by the sweet and gentle breath of the Holy Spirit. Let us learn this lesson of gentleness from Him who said, "Learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart." Tenderness of spirit, purity of heart, gentleness in his touch, these are beautiful characteristics of Him whose we are and whom we serve.

### Fifty Dollars or Fifty Cents

There is on the borders of the Connecticut a small town, which, tho weak and feeble, still, with the help of a "home missionary society," supported a minister and maintained regular divine worship. About the time when it became necessary to pay the minister's salary, there moved into the place a man who gained his living by carting coal and by other similar labor. It was noticed that this man was very regular in his attendance at church, and was never absent from the prayer meeting, but from a pecuniary point of view he was not considered important.

It was the custom, when the salary was due, for one of the deacons to collect all he could from the people, and then get the balance from the home missionary society. In accordance with this custom, one fine morning Deacon A., a man of considerable penuriousness, started forth with subscription paper in hand, to see how much he could squeeze out of the parish for the support of the minister.

The first person he met was the above mentioned coal carter, moving along the road with a cartload of that material. The deacon considered within himself that it might be worth while to ask him to contribute, seeing that he was a good sort of person, and every little helps, and so accosted him with "Good morning, Mr. B., are you willing to give anything toward the support of the pastor?" at the same time handing him the paper. The man stopped, stood thoughtfully for a moment or two, drew a pencil out of his pocket, and with his dirt-begrimed hand he headed the list with the sum of fifty dollars.

The deacon was so taken by surprise that he could scarcely believe the evidence of his eyes, and thinking the man had made a mistake, and not wishing to take the advantage of him, he asked him: "Did you mean that for fifty cents?" The coal carter turned, drew himself up to his full height, and with great earnestness replied: "I do not value the gospel at fifty cents a year."

The answer placed the case in a new light. The deacon went immediately to the pastor, related the incident, and said: "If that man can give fifty dollars a year I can give five hundred."

The same spirit actuated the rest of the parish on hearing the story, and in a few days the salary was raised by the people themselves without the necessity of applying for outside aid.

At how much do you "value the gospel?" for upon the answer may depend your fate for eternity.

## Missions

### Washington Letter

I have just returned from the Maryland—Virginia convention held at St. James. The representation from a distance was not large, but the conference was a good one. The home church deserves much praise; the congregation at St. James knows how to take care of a conference; they have "big hearts" and make everybody feel "at home." Brother Hall, the pastor, possesses the happy faculty of serving his congregation in such a way that causes them to take pleasure in serving others. The mission in this city has always found this people to be ready with a helping hand and it has not been without appreciation. Our National Secretary and field worker, Brother Cassel, was with us, and it is needless for me to add, his presence was no small factor, and his addresses gave great force and inspiration. I trust that he may be able to continue his work permanently.

From St James I went to Union Bridge, Md., and on Sunday morning I attended services in the G. B. church in town, and listened to a sermon by Prof. John J. John of the Maryland Collegiate Institute. In the evening I passed eastward two miles and preached at Linwood to a very good congregation. Since my last meeting at this place, or about one month ago, Brother Tombaugh gave them a series of six sermons. Not only was this appreciated by the members and friends at Linwood, but by myself, for I find it impossible to leave the work at home, excepting at long intervals, and I am very glad that Brother Tombaugh has consented to share with me in that work. Our present arrangement is to hold regular services there one Sunday in every month. Later I expect to call on Brother Hall to come and help us some at Linwood. It is a hopeful field and a good beginning has been made. Perhaps Brother Holsinger of